

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

~~3 OCT 1961~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Syrian developments

A. Prime Minister Kuzbari is attempting to avoid having the reactionary label pinned on his government and to identify his regime with Syrian nationalism. He has announced that UAR-decreed social-welfare measures will be retained and has told the press Syria will be "non-aligned." Damascus requested UN membership yesterday.

B. The Egyptian forces which had loaded in Alexandria are apparently still standing by there; we have no further evidence of any Egyptian moves to overthrow Kuzbari.

Cairo propaganda is making much of the now-cancelled Sixth Fleet visit to Beirut as evidence of US involvement.

2. Syrian repercussions

A. There have apparently been no further announcements of recognition. The USSR continues noncommittal.

Another period of instability in Lebanon may follow.

C. Qasim may take the opportunity to grab for Kuwait, but we doubt that he plans to do so in the face of the considerable UK strength still maintained in the Persian Gulf.

3. Prospects improving for
Laotian settlement



Phoumi has finally agreed to accept Souvanna as cabinet formateur, has drawn up a cabinet proposal within negotiating distance of the formulas discussed with Souvanna, and claims he will try to persuade his associates that this is the right course. The three princes will meet again on Friday. Ambassador Harriman reports further progress in his talks with Pushkin.

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4. Brazilian Congress
reluctantly accepts
Goulart-Neves program

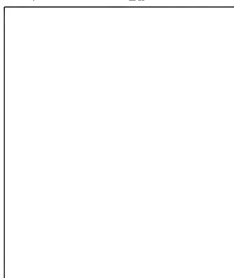


The program, which is slightly more conservative than that of Quadros, is under attack from the right for its foreign policy and from the left for its domestic provisions. The Congress also resents Neves' failure to oppose Goulart's reclaiming of powers which Congress intended to take from the Presidency by constitutional amendment.

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5. East Germany-Berlin



A. Preparations for removal of unreliable residents from a zone 5 kilometers east of the East German-West German border are well advanced.

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a New York Herald Tribune story that West Berlin residents are leaving the city at the rate of 2,000 a week.

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NOTES

- A. President Diem has asked the US for a bilateral defense treaty "like the one with Taiwan." [redacted] 50X1
- B. President Velasco of Ecuador is preparing to take strong measures against a general strike called for Wednesday by Communist-dominated labor unions in protest against his economic stabilization program. He appears to have postponed his trip to Washington for fear that his opposition will move against him in his absence. [redacted] 50X1
- C. Although both sides in Katanga are trying to avoid a renewal of fighting, rioting by anti-Tshombé tribesmen spread into Elizabethville yesterday. [redacted] 50X1
- D. Withdrawal of troops in Bizerte by both sides is proceeding on schedule. [redacted] [redacted] 50X1
- E. Some of the South Korean regime's military leaders may be trying to force nationalization of industry by demanding exorbitant taxes and fines for illegal profiteering. [redacted] 50X1

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